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KUWAIT SHIMMERS IN COLORS



KUWAIT: Fireworks light up Kuwait Towers and Arabian Gulf Road on Feb 28, 2023. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 2)

Spectacular end to national celebrations as show lights up skyline

KUWAIT: Lighting up Kuwait's night skyline with myriad colors, a spectacular light and drone show accompanied by dazzling fireworks over Kuwait Towers marked a fitting finale to a month-long

celebration of the country's national days on Tuesday. Hundreds of thousands of spectators flocked to Arabian Gulf Road to watch the breathtaking hourlong show.

Authorities had made elaborate arrangements for people to watch the show. Buses were allocated to transport people from designated parking lots to celebration sites near Kuwait Towers from 2.30 pm

to 6.30 pm. The Arabian Gulf Road was partially closed from the Second Ring Road intersection to the British Embassy intersection from 5.30 pm until the end of the display.

News in brief

Google Wallet active in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Google Wallet is now active in Kuwait, allowing people who use phones that run on Android OS other than Samsung devices to use the contactless payment feature. The new service comes after Apple Pay became available in the country late last year, while the Samsung Wallet feature has been active in Kuwait for years.

Quake killed more than 50,000

BEIRUT: A devastating earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria killed more than 50,000 people, in a toll revised by AFP that includes figures from both government and rebel-controlled parts of war-torn Syria. A total of 5,951 people were killed across Syria, while Turkey recorded 44,374 deaths after the Feb 6 earthquake. The new tally brings to 50,325 the total number of deaths caused by the disaster across both countries. — AFP

Weight loss drug trend on TikTok worries doctors

PARIS: The diabetes drug Ozempic has become a social media phenomenon for its weight loss properties, but its soaring popularity has led to global shortages and doctors warn about the potential side effects. Videos under the hashtag #Ozempic have nearly 600 million views on TikTok, where many users regularly update followers about their weight loss. "Losing 40

kilograms in less than three months is possible" thanks to Ozempic, a French TikToker said in a typical post in December with nearly 50,000 views. "It's a miracle," he added.

The injectable drug from Danish pharmaceutical firm Novo Nordisk was initially developed and approved in numerous nations to treat type 2 diabetes. The drug's active ingredient, semaglutide, binds itself to the receptors of a hormone which controls blood sugar, stimulating the release of insulin when glucose levels are high. It slows down how quickly food leaves a person's stomach, reducing their appetite.

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PARIS: This photograph taken on Feb 23, 2023 shows the anti-diabetic medication Ozempic. — AFP

Moroccans struggle to afford veggies

SALE, Morocco: Shoppers inspect vegetables at a huge market in Sale, near the Moroccan capital Rabat, but exploding prices mean they are keeping their eye on what they spend ahead of Ramadan. "Everything's more expensive," said Khadija El Asri, a resident of the down-at-heel neighborhood of Sidi Moussa. "These last three weeks, I've bought less vegeta-

bles and meat than usual."

Dozens of handcarts and boxes of produce line the market street, where the buzz of mopeds mixes with the sound of heated negotiations between struggling shoppers and squeezed merchants. Inflation is adding extra pressure just as Morocco prepares for Ramadan, the Islamic fasting month which starts in late March. Night-time feasting means consumption tends to increase during the holy month.

Inflation hit 8.3 percent on an annualized basis in late 2022, mainly due to global supply chain disruptions exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impact on fuel and

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SALE, Morocco: In this picture taken on Feb 23, 2023, shoppers buy fresh produce at the Sidi Moussa market. — AFP

